

IN THE CLAIMS :

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): A network device management apparatus which manages a network device that is connected to a network, where the network device has a plurality of print data generating functions and does not support any network[[ ]]\_compatible Plug and Play function, said apparatus comprising:

recognition means for recognizing ~~a—that the~~ network device ~~not supporting the~~ does not support a network[[ ]]\_compatible Plug and Play function;

generating means for, ~~if said recognition means recognizes a network device not supporting the network compatible Plug and Play function,~~ generating a plurality of device IDs corresponding to ~~a—the~~ plurality of print data generating functions of the ~~network deviee~~ recognized by said recognition means,

where each device ID includes at least information identifying the model, information indicating the manufacturer and information indicating one of the plurality of print data generating functions of the recognized network device, so that, in accordance with the network[[ ]]\_compatible supporting Plug and Play function, a client apparatus on the network can install a plurality of device drivers for controlling the plurality of print data generating functions of the network device recognized by said recognition means and

response means for responding to the client apparatus using the plurality of device IDs generated by said generating means.

13. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising storage means for storing protocol information required to communicate with a network device ~~to be stored~~.

14. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising control means for, when job information addressed to a virtual representation of the network device that supports the network-compatible Plug and Play device function is received, acquiring an address and protocol information of the corresponding network device from said storage means, converting the job information into the acquired protocol, and transmitting the converted information to the acquired address.

15. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the plurality of print data generating functions ~~indicated by the function information include are~~ functions of a plurality of different printer drivers that can generate print data which can be processed by the network device.

16. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

search means for searching for a network device which does not support any network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play function; and

registration means for registering in said storage means a network address of the network device found by said search means, and information for specifying a protocol used in a communication with the network device found by said search means.

17. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said search means determines, as a network device group that does not support any network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play function, a network device group which remains after excluding network devices detected as a search result of a UPnP network protocol from a network device group detected by a search of an SNMP protocol.

18. (previously presented): The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the network device is a network printer.

19. (currently amended): The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein, when the network device supports a plurality of printer languages, said response means responds as a logically independent network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play printer ~~which is independent~~ for each individual printer language.

20. (currently amended): A method of controlling a network device management apparatus which manages a network device that is connected to a network, where the network device has a plurality of print data generating functions and does not support any network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play function, said method comprising the steps of:

recognizing ~~a~~that the network device ~~not supporting the~~ does not support a network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play function;

~~if in said recognizing step there is recognized a network device not supporting the network compatible Plug and Play function~~, generating a plurality of device IDs corresponding to ~~a~~the plurality of print data generating functions of the network device recognized by said recognition means,

where each device ID includes at least information identifying the model, information indicating the manufacturer and information indicating one of the plurality of print data generating functions of the recognized network device, so that, in accordance with the network[[ ]]-compatible supporting Plug and Play function, a client apparatus on the network can install a plurality of device drivers for controlling the plurality of print data generating functions ~~of the network device recognized in said recognizing step~~; and

responding to the client apparatus using the plurality of device IDs generated in said generating step.

21. (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium, storing, in executable form, a program for causing a computer to serve as a network device management apparatus which manages a network device that is connected to a network, where the network device has a plurality of print data generating functions and does not support any network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play function , said program comprising code for performing the steps of:

recognizing ~~a~~that the network device ~~not supporting the~~ does not support any network[[ ]]-compatible Plug and Play function;

~~if in said recognizing step there is recognized a network device not supporting the network compatible Plug and Play function~~, generating a plurality of device IDs corresponding

to ~~a~~the plurality of print data generating functions ~~of the network device recognized by said recognition means~~,

where each device ID includes at least information identifying the model, information indicating the manufacturer and information indicating one of the plurality of print data generating functions of the recognized network device, so that, in accordance with network[[ ]]-compatible supporting Plug and Play function, a client apparatus on the network can install a plurality of device drivers for controlling the plurality of print data generating functions ~~of the network device recognized in said recognizing step~~; and

responding to the client apparatus using the plurality of device IDs generated in said generating step.

22. (canceled).

23. (currently amended): The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of storing protocol information required to communicate with a network device ~~to be stored~~.

24. (currently amended): The method according to claim 20, further comprising a control step of, when job information addressed to a virtual representation of the network device which supports the network-compatible Plug and Play ~~device function~~ is received, acquiring an address and protocol information of the corresponding network device ~~from~~ ~~in~~ ~~said storage means~~ ~~storing step~~, converting the job information into the acquired protocol, and transmitting the converted information to the acquired address.

25. (currently amended): The method according to claim 20, wherein the plurality of print data generating functions ~~indicated by the function information include are~~ are functions of a plurality of different printer drivers that can generate print data which can be processed by the network device.

26. (currently amended): The method according to claim 23, further comprising:  
a search step of searching for a network device which does not support any network-compatible Plug and Play function; and  
a registration step of registering in storage means a network address of a network device found in said search step, and information for specifying a protocol used in a communication with the network device found in said search step.

27. (previously presented): The method according to claim 26, wherein said search step includes determining, as a network device group that does not support any network-compatible Plug and Play function, a network device group which remains after excluding network devices detected as a search result of a UPnP network protocol from a network device group detected by a search of an SNMP protocol.

28. (previously presented): The method according to claim 20, wherein the network device is a network printer.

29. (currently amended): The method according to claim 28, wherein, when the network device supports a plurality of printer languages, said ~~step of generating and returning~~

responding step includes responding as a logically independent network-compatible Plug and Play printer ~~which is independent~~ for each individual printer language.

30. - 34. (canceled).